

15. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report By: Chief Executive

Wards Affected

None.

Purpose

1. To appoint a Chairman to the Education Scrutiny Committee until the Annual Meeting of Council on 21st May, 2004.

Financial Implications

2. The budget for Members' Special Responsibility Allowances includes provision for payment of an allowance for Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees.

Background

3. At its Annual Meeting on 23rd May, 2003 the Council appointed a number of office holders, including Councillor D.C. Short as Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee. Following Councillor Short's death a vacancy has occurred in this office and, consequently, in the membership of the Strategic Monitoring Committee.
4. Group Leaders have indicated that they do not consider it practicable to recalculate the political proportionality of the Council until the outcome of the by-election on 22nd January, 2004 is known.
5. In the meantime it is proposed that Councillor B.F. Ashton be appointed by the Council as Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee (and member of Strategic Monitoring Committee). Councillor Ashton currently holds seats on both the Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee. No immediate change is required but depending on the outcome of the by-election it may be necessary for those seats to be vacated in order that they can be re-allocated to meet political proportionality requirements or to be re-allocated within the Liberal Democrat Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT (a) Councillor B.F. Ashton be appointed Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee;

and

(b) the term of office will expire at the next Annual Meeting of Council.

COUNCIL

16TH JANUARY, 2004

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.